CLAIMS

1. A DNA fragment of LAV extending from nucleotide position 236 to nucleotide position 1759.

2. A DNA fragment of LAV extending from nucleotide position 1555 to nucleotide position 5086.

3. A DNA fragment of LAV extending from nucleotide position 5670 to nucleotide position 8132.

4. A vector containing a DNA fragment according to any of claims 1 to 3.

5. Peptide corresponding to any of those encoded by the nucleotide sequences which extend respectively between the following positions :

a) from about 6095 to about 6200

b) "   "   6260   "   "   6310

c) "   "   6390   "   "   6440

d) "   "   6485   "   "   6620

e) "   "   6860   "   "   6930

f) "   "   7535   "   "   7630

6. Peptide characterized by a sequence of amino-acids deducible from LAV DNA the terminal aminoacids of which extend between the following positions with respect to the lysine (position 1) coded by the AAA at position 5670-5672 in the LAV DNA.

8-23 aminoacids inclusive

63-78   "   "

82-90   "   "

97-123 "   "

127-183 "   "

197-201 "   "

239-294 "   "

300-327 "   "

334-381 "   "

397-424 "   "

466-500 "   "

510-523 "   "

551-577 "   "

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594-603   "       "
621-630   "       "
657-679   "       "
719-758   "       "
780-803   "       "
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or any combination of these peptides.

7. Peptide corresponding to the aminoacid sequences deducible from LAV DNA and the terminal aminoacids of which are positionned at the positions hereafter counted from the Met at position 1 coded by the ATG sequence at nucleotide positions 260-2 :

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12-32 aminoacids inclusive
37-46     "       "
49-79     "       "
88-153    "       "
158-165   "       "
178-188   "       "
200-220   "       "
226-234   "       "
239-264   "       "
288-331   "       "
352-361   "       "
377-390   "       "
399-432   "       "
437-484   "       "
492-498   "       "
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and combination of said peptides.

8. Diagnostic means containing any of the DNA fragments of any of claims 1 to 3.

9. Diagnostic means containing any of the peptides of any of claims 4 to 6.

10. Vaccine compositions containing any of the peptides according to any of claims 4 to 6 in association with a pharmaceutical vehicle.